

Iscah Migration Newsletter

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MONDAY 21ST MAY 2012

EDITION 167

Hiya Everyone

Welcome to the zillionth edition of our monthly migration newsletter. Hope you had a great month and all set for some of the big changes on 1st July 2012.

We send this out free on the third Monday of each month. If you want backcopies they are available at www.iscah.com if you wish to subscribe, unsubscribe or give any feedback please drop us a line to newsletter@iscah.com

On to the latest news ..

Contents

- 1) IELTS Validity to be extended
- 2) Information about the EOI Start date
- 3) Provisional Visa extended to 4 years
- 4) DIAC New Partner (Permanent) Calculator
- 5) Visa Source Countries
- 6) Changes to migration in Federal Budget
- 7) Priority Group 5 Processing
- 8) DIAC Processing Times

1) IELTS Validity to be extended

At present the results of the English language test of IELTS is valid for a two year period for General Skilled Migration applications. From the 1st July this period will be extended to three years. So you will need to make sure when you lodge your visa application that you have IELTS results from a test that you undertook not more than 3 years before that date.

(Source: DIAC)

2) Information about the EOI Start date

The following information was published by DIAC

1. Invitations for the independent and family sponsored visas will be issued monthly. We propose that the first round of invitations will be issued in August 2012.
2. If you receive an invitation, you will have 60 days to lodge a valid visa application online, before the invitation expires. Applications received outside this timeframe will be invalid.
3. We will provide information on the occupation ceiling levels on our website on 1 July 2012. The occupation ceiling will be an annual amount that will operate from 1 July 2012. It will not be divided into a monthly amount. Once the occupation ceiling is reached, no further invitations for that occupation group will be issued. The occupation ceiling is based on the 4 digit unit group level of the ANZSCO. You can find information on ANZSCO at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/employers/anzsco/anzsco-code>.
4. You can update your EOI at any time prior to receiving an invitation. We encourage you to update your EOI regularly. For example you may need to update your EOI you have gained new work experience, gained a higher qualification and/or improved your English language ability and/or changed your family composition. If you provide updated information which changes your points score or your ability to make a complete EOI against a visa, then SkillSelect will update your ranking and ability to be considered for an invitation automatically.

(Source: DIAC)

3) Provisional Visa extended to 4 years

The current 475/487 visa will come under the one 489 Skilled Regional visa from 1st July 2012.

DIAC have advised this visa will now last for 4 years (instead of the previous three years).

(Source: DIAC)

4) DIAC New Partner (Permanent) Calculator

The following is now available on the DIAC website :

Partner (Permanent) Calculator

You applied for both a temporary and permanent visa when you lodged your application. The Partner (Permanent) Calculator will assist you to determine when you are eligible to have your Partner (Permanent) visa application assessed.

Approximately, three months before you are eligible to be assessed for the Partner (permanent) visa (usually two years after application lodgement), you will receive a letter from the department asking you to provide information relating to your application.

If you believe you are eligible for assessment for a Partner (permanent) visa and you have not received a letter from the department, you are encouraged to use the self service Partner (Permanent) visa calculator to determine when your permanent visa application is eligible for assessment.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/forms/partner/>

(Source: DIAC)

5) Visa Source Countries

These Country Profiles bring together a whole of country perspective on permanent and temporary migrant inflows and outflows and provide relevant information, including key statistical data, on the different types of visa categories.

The Country Profiles provide information on 14 migrant source countries.

These consist of profiles for:

- the top 10 countries providing the most permanent migrants to Australia, with the addition of Indonesia
- Afghanistan, Burma and Iraq—the largest source countries of humanitarian entrants to Australia.

Being among the top 10 does not mean that a country will be in the top 10 across all visa categories.

Example: The UK which is Australia's second largest provider of both skilled and family migrants, only ranks 20th as a provider of international students.

The current country rankings based on 2010–11 data provide a succinct insight into the different types of migrants coming from our top 10 source countries.

See: http://www.immi.gov.au/media/statistics/country-profiles/_pdf/country-ranking.pdf

These profiles also include key findings relating to occupation, demographic and emigration trends.

PRC UK India Vietnam Philippines	India PRC UK Sri Lanka Malaysia South Africa Philippines	UK Philippines India South Africa PRC Ireland Republic of Korea	PRC UK India Philippines South Africa Malaysia Sri Lanka Republic of Korea Ireland	PRC India Republic of Korea Malaysia	UK India Philippines Ireland South Africa PRC	UK India Philippines Ireland South Africa PRC
Indonesia Republic of Korea South Africa Malaysia Afghanistan	Republic of Korea Ireland Malaysia	Malaysia Vietnam	Indonesia Ireland Indonesia	Vietnam Malaysia	India Indonesia	India Indonesia
Ireland Sri Lanka	Vietnam Sri Lanka Indonesia	Vietnam	Vietnam	Republic of Korea Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia
Iraq (28) Burma (Myanmar) (46)	Burma (Myanmar) (36) Iraq (43) Afghanistan (93)	Burma (Myanmar) (47) Iraq (73) Afghanistan (93)	Burma (Myanmar) (43) Iraq (55) Afghanistan (97)	UK (21) Sri Lanka (22) Ireland (44) South Africa (49) Burma (Myanmar) (57) Iraq (73) Afghanistan (87)	Vietnam (36) Burma (Myanmar) (55) Iraq (72) Afghanistan (149)	South Africa Vietnam (2) Vietnam (2) Sri Lanka (C Burma (My (72) Iraq (84) Afghanistan

6) Changes to migration in Federal Budget

The 2012-2013 Commonwealth Budget contains several measures of significance to the Migration Program.

Increased Migration Program

The Migration Program will increase by 5000 to 190,000 places: Family places up 1585 to 60,185; Skilled places up 3415 to 129,250.

Employer Sanctions

A new, tiered employer sanctions regime and associate VEVO upgrade will target employers who enable or cause work rights breaches.

Increased Charges for Optional Visa Services

Visa label charges will increase by \$10 and, from next year, surcharges for paper lodgement will apply.

Humanitarian Settlement Services

Some settlement services will be capped for refugees who have been living independently for six months in the community.

Increase in Significant Cost Threshold

The Significant Cost Threshold will increase from \$21,000 to \$35,000, reflecting costs, and will cease for Humanitarian visa entrants.

Reintegration Assistance Program

The Reintegration Assistance Program, which assists asylum seekers to return to their country of origin, will see increased funding.

Protection Processes

Asylum seekers will now have access to merits review through the MRT-RRT, regardless of their method of arrival.

Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors

Money has been allocated for the supervision and welfare of Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors.

Virtual English Tuition

A pilot program delivering virtual English tuition over the NBN will be trialled for migrants in regional areas.

Seasonal Labour Mobility Program

A seasonal labour mobility program will grant work rights to Pacific Islanders and East Timorese in select industries.

(Source: MIA)

7) Priority Group 5 Processing

Most General Skilled Migration (GSM) visa applications are subject to a Ministerial Direction which determines the priority in which they are considered. Applications are allocated to a case officer for processing based on the priority of an application according to the Direction.

See: [Fact Sheet 24a – Priority Processing for Skilled Migration Visas](#)

Each week the two GSM processing centres (Adelaide and Brisbane) allocate the highest priority applications on hand before the next highest, until there are sufficient applications allocated in each of the visa categories to meet the planning levels set by government in the 2011-12 Migration Program.

See: [Migration Program Statistics](#)

Allocation process and caseload

Each week approximately 1000 priority affected cases are allocated to case officers. Cases are allocated based on their priority group and whether they were lodged in or outside Australia.

In Australia

Allocation of applications lodged in Australia is currently made up of all available applications from Priority Groups 1, 3 and 4. If there are any remaining places available, then Priority Group 5 cases will be allocated. There are no GSM applications in Priority Group 2. The department commenced allocating Priority Group 5 applications lodged in Australia in November 2011. As at 13 April 2012, all clients who lodged their application before 5 January 2009 have been contacted by their case officer. A further 21 471 Priority Group 5 cases are awaiting allocation.

Outside Australia

Allocation of applications lodged outside Australia is currently made up of all available applications from Priority Groups 1 and 3. If there are any remaining places available, then generally Priority Group 4 cases will be allocated. There are no GSM applications in Priority Group 2. As at 13 April 2012 there were approximately 1840 Priority Group 4 cases lodged outside Australia awaiting allocation. A further 14 914 Priority Group 5 cases are also awaiting allocation.

Processing arrangements for Priority Group 5

Allocation of Priority Group 5 applications lodged outside Australia has commenced with applications in state sponsored GSM visa subclasses currently being allocated in the order they were received.

Allocation of state sponsored cases ahead of the remaining Priority Group 4 applications lodged outside Australia is due to there being a lower than anticipated number of applications lodged this program year under a State Migration Plan (Priority Group 3). This allocation includes applications in visa subclass 495 which, was not affected by the Minister's Cap and Cease arrangements, unlike other GSM applications lodged outside Australia prior to 1 September 2007. All affected applications will be allocated to case officers during April and May 2012.

GSM has also limited the allocation of Skilled Australian Sponsored cases lodged in and outside Australia due to there being a low number of available visa places remaining this program year. Skilled Australian Sponsored applicants in both Priority Groups 4 and 5, whose applications are yet to be allocated to a case officer will be affected.

The allocation of Priority Group 5 applications lodged outside Australia is expected to continue in general date of lodgement order throughout the 2012-13 Migration Program year in line with available Migration Program places in the specific GSM visa categories.

The overall number of Priority Group 5 applications processed in any program year will ultimately depend on the number of higher priority applications received, and other factors, including the size of the Migration Program and its composition, and any variation of the Processing Direction.

Many Priority Group 5 applicants still face a considerable wait until their application is allocated to a case officer for processing and may want to consider other options available. Applicants can follow the progress of allocating GSM visa applications through the website.

<http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/gsm-priority5-processing.htm>

(Source: DIAC)

8) DIAC Processing Times

Details of Processing times for :

GSM visas are available here <http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/estimated-allocation-times.htm>

For other visa categories are available here <http://www.immi.gov.au/about/charters/client-services-charter/standards/2.1.htm>



Okay that's all folks under Monday 18th June, unless something is released that is of great interest.
Be good.

Cheers

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